

Papers of:
Dean Acheson

Kennedy, John F.
✓ State Department Advisory

Copy of handwritten letter

Dear Mr. President,

With proper precautions for warding off the ill-luck which is said to attend upon and punish premature statement, may I congratulate you on your leadership, firmness and judgment over the past touchy week. We have not had these qualities at the helm in this country at all times. It is good to have them again.

Only a few people know better than I how hard these decisions are to make, and how broad the gap is between the advisors and the decider. It may be that we are not out of the woods yet. I remember the fate of our high hopes as the Korean armistice was agreed to. But though the dangers of the fly paper of talk are clear, what has already happened amply shows the wisdom of the course you chose -- and stuck to.

I am happy that you enabled me to participate in the events of last week.

Most respectfully,

/s/ Dean Acheson

October 28, 1962.